

The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1912.

WILSON OR DARK HORSE?

Baltimore, Md., June 26.—There was a decided reaction to-day from the triumph of the conservative Democrats yesterday. The progressives have taken on a new lease of life and the outlook is now bright for Wilson or a dark horse. If Clark does not win on the second ballot he will not win at all. Wilson received to-night the most tremendous ovation that has greeted the mention of any candidate's name.

For many minutes there was the wildest cheering for the New Jersey man, and it must have given impressive evidence to the delegates of the immense popularity of Wilson.

Wilson stock is again rising, and the cause that seemed lost yesterday is not without hope. A Democratic ticket framed by the Ryan-Murphy-Tammans combination means almost certain defeat. It would give Roosevelt the election on a silver plate. From every quarter comes testimony as to the powerful independent and Republican vote that Wilson would secure, and these reports are so common and so undeniably true that they alone may yet cause the choice of Wilson.

If Bryan will come out for Wilson it will be almost impossible to beat Wilson in the convention. If Bryan can have the courage and the self-sacrifice to come out on Wilson's side, the entire face of things will change. Clark delegates who voted for Parker are openly recanting. They do not wish to swallow the poisonous dose that the Wall Street chuckle are trying to force upon them. If the Wilson people and the other progressives can maintain the integrity of their forces for more than two ballots, Clark will be gradually counted out. Wilson may not be able to win. But a progressive dark mustang will be able to flash away with the nomination. Progressive stock is booming to-night, and the conservatives know that they have no cinch.

COMMERCE IN CONVENTIONS.

Baltimore, Md., June 26.—There can be no question that all too many votes are bartered in national conventions. The immense moneyed interests, seeking to avert any trespass upon their traditional preserves, play a vast part in the adoption of the platform and the nomination of the candidate. Special privilege is nonpartisan; it seeks to control both parties and to combine to defeat that which holds out the larger potential menace. It gropes for and pushes the man who can be controlled. For the independent leader, who does his own thinking and does not let the interests do it for him, organized privilege, less nothing but enmity. It does not want a keynote sounder like Bryan; it wants a Parker, whose speech may be edited to placate the bosses, who are silent but mighty.

New York had a commanding position in both conventions, and yet the backbone of the New York organization in both parties is the influence of the interests. No one would contend that the New York delegate is as responsive to and as representative of the people as the Texas delegate. In the great States where a vast proportion of population is confined within the cities the boss and the machine are far more able to deliver votes in return for place, prestige and power. There is a wide difference between the Simon pure Democrat and the Democrat for revenue only, and to the latter class belong most of the Democratic bosses in the great cities—Democrats who are in it for what they can get out of it.

"We are for whoever is for us" was the reply of a Democratic subalternant of a boss to the question, "Whom is your State for in the race for the presidential nomination?" That was characteristic of much of the political dealing in national conventions. The inquiry which certain leaders of delegations put to themselves is: "Whom must we support to get the most we can for our State?" He does not ask the question, "Who is most likely to carry the country?" The legislator who sacrifices the good of the State for the benefit of his country is a smaller type of such statement.

It remains to be seen whether the present Democratic National Convention is to be held on the market to the highest bidder in return for the future delivery of political position and prestige.

ALDERMEN ACT WISELY.

The Board of Aldermen acted wisely in responding to a widespread demand for a careful consideration of the proposed light and power franchise. No such important legislation should be rushed through without complete and illuminating investigation. As was admirably pointed out by the gentleman from Madison, there is hardly a clause in the entire paper that cannot be amended to protect more fully the interests of the people of Richmond. If such amendments are not now added, it will be because the Aldermen do not desire to seek any means of protecting the city. The citizens of Richmond are aware of the grave significance of this franchise, and they will closely watch the action of each member of the Board.

The Times-Dispatch urges that in the week granted by the postponement, each member study the provisions of this ordinance, and beyond this the broad question of competition in public service utilities. It draws attention to the report of the subcommittee of the Street Committee, which, as the result of six months' study, expresses the following opinion:

"Authorities and records have been produced before your subcommittee which show conclusively that the trend of public thought and decision is manifestly to the effect that public utilities consist of natural monopolies, and that competition should never be permitted until made necessary by reason of excessive rates or inadequate service and the inability of the government to acquire fair price and efficiency. The experience of our own city, as well as many others, shows that such competition inevitably results in the duplication of expenditure, in ultimate merger, and consequent burden permanently saddled upon the community."

In view of this recommendation, based upon practically universal experience, can the Aldermen afford to run the risk of saddling Richmond with such a burden? Why should Richmond pay the same costly price for the knowledge that competition in public service utilities does not and cannot exist? The people of Richmond demand that their representatives protect them.

CITIZENS URGE WIDER PAVEMENTS.

Representatives from commercial organizations, headed by the Chamber of Commerce, property owners and private citizens interested in securing wider pavements on both sides of Broad Street should be present in person before the special committee at 5 o'clock this afternoon to urge the proposed improvement. Every possible means should be employed to impress upon this committee the fact that Richmond wants wider walks on its main promenade. Upon their recommendation largely depends the action of the Street Committee. The demand for this change is practically unanimous, but a large gathering of prominent citizens will have potent weight in proving the extent of this demand to the committee.

Broad Street should have wider pavements for these reasons. It is the principal retail, show and promenade street in the city. Its walks are already uncomfortably and inconveniently crowded at certain hours. This congestion will increase as the city grows. Larger buildings and more of them mean a greater crowd of patrons and employees. These new and fine edifices require broader pavements to bring out their imposing beauty. A certain part of the present roadway can be used for pavement purposes without injuring the street for vehicles. Richmond will not be content until its main thoroughfare is completed and dignified to compare favorably with the best in the country. The improvement, by bringing the two sides of the street closer together, will have a tendency to develop the neglected north side, which is in every natural way just as useful as the south side. The cost of paving with granolithic cement what would otherwise have to be covered with the road material will result in a material reduction of the expense. Probably an extra block can be finished by this saving. It will be a manifest economy both in time, money and convenience if this necessary work can be done in conjunction with the smooth paving.

The Street Committee, with the advice of the City Engineer as to the extent of the new pavements and the kind, should act promptly to put this long-needed improvement under way. There is no objection against it; there is every reason for it. If you are interested in the development of Richmond, show your public spirit by your presence at the discussion this afternoon.

THE PLATFORM PARADOX.

The platforms of political parties in these days seem to be dubious and uncertain things. At Chicago the Republicans uttered a collection of oblique generalizations upon the questions the country desires to have settled. Most of these so-called promises mean nothing as they stand. The agility with which the Republican party got off of its platform as voted in 1908 makes them mean rather less than nothing. The voters care not a rap about the glittering and vague promises made in 1912, because they remember the reputation of the same glittering pledges after 1908. The present pledges may prove an interesting historical document, illuminating the vanity of human wishes. As real promises they will not influence one thinking voter.

Theodore Roosevelt's Bandmannians don't worry about a platform at all. They stand on Roosevelt, and Roosevelt stands for himself. The Colonel has mouthed intolerably about the great principles he represents and the execution of the people's wishes. He is silent on the tariff, he is silent upon regulation of monopoly; he is silent upon the cost of living. These are the issues the people want settled. How can he represent the people when he utters no word upon their principles? One segment of the Republicans have a candidate who means nothing on a platform that means nothing. The other segment rests its case on a platform of one plank, the first person singular pronoun.

We trust that at Baltimore the candidate will come before the country with a definite and clearly voiced

promise to execute the promises of an honest and wise set of pledges. In no other way can the country be relieved from the easy but pointless process of casting its ballots in the dark.

POINTS WELL TAKEN.

Lord Mersey, chairman of the British commission investigating the Titanic disaster, having, in commenting on the possible negligence of Captain Smith, commander of the ill-fated liner, asked if it was the practice to find negligence against a dead man, was told that the courts were always "reluctant to find a dead man guilty."

Commenting, in turn on this, which it characterizes as a showing, it would be well for our courts and boards of inquiry to ponder, the New York World makes these points: That the practice in this country in cases involving captains of industry and princes of high finance has been too often to find a dead man guilty instead of a living one; that beyond the sense of honor that forbids placing blame upon a man no longer capable of speaking for himself, lies the plain principle that justice is defeated when the dead are condemned that the living may be acquitted, and that it is a pity we cannot say of all courts summoned to inquire into great wrongs and crimes that they once found a dead man guilty, since we have had recent instances of piling fraud, bribery and corruption on the grave of one man long since dead in order to give absolute to all the living involved in the case.

Points well taken they are, and accentuate most forcibly our contemporary's, concluding and summarizing point that by being guiltless with the memory of the departed courts and boards of inquiry would be more terrible to the plans of the living offenders. Many a rascal has been enabled to escape the lash of justice and the whip of public scorn by seeking shelter behind the tomb of an associate, that was less deserving of either, was less offending and who, could he have spoken for himself, might have been able to prove that he was largely a tool and dupe rather than the principal; that, in a word, he had been made a scapegoat for the man higher up.

THE LANGUAGE OF PRECISION.

An interesting aspect of the development of the English tongue is the increased precision resulting upon the enormous spread of scientific knowledge. The principal growth of the language is in the introduction of technical terms of exact meaning from the various sciences and arts. These words are usually formed from Greek and Latin roots by combination, and have attached to them a single definite meaning. There are 500,000 or more engineers in the United States who are familiar with this vocabulary, and who use it with a desire to be clear and effective. In the electrical field there are thirty-three technical papers dealing either with the science or business of electricity. The whole effect of this writing is to establish an absolute standard of usage in words. By degrees the colloquial filter out into the general public and the tongue is so much the richer.

But if there is a gain in precision, there may also be some loss in the emotional and poetic power of discourse. These new terms take no account of the human element in life. They will never do for poetry, or the impassioned forms of speech. In this direction the speech of the country grows only by figurative twists upon the old words, or by popular derivations from the new. What is gained in knowledge may be lost in pleasure. But that the language will petrify and become cold and lifeless is not a grave danger while the vital and colored contributions of slang lend their picturesque "punch" to human talk.

Uncle Lyman Abbott and the Outlook will now be adopted by the Roosevelt party.

The "moonlight" excursion will help some in forgetting the tumult and the shouting of this country's growing pains.

Here is a nice new assortment of political labels to choose from: Reactionary, Conservative, Progressive, Radical. They run all the way from 29 below zero to 100 in the shade. It is to be regretted that the old-fashioned word Patriot seems to be omitted.

Epitaph for United States League: Out, out, brief candle!

In the new party Theodore will be chauffeur of the steam roller.

It must have been Providence that supplied a cool summer in 1912. Otherwise the lid would have been blown plumb off this perverted Gem of the Ocean.

Among other terrible signs of the times is this warning from the Sandy Valley News: "Every officer and good citizen have got to do their duty now, or our town and community will drift back to the dark days we passed through some years ago." Evidently "the viewing with alarm" is good all over the country this year.

Some political party platform could help the people of the United States by declaring Harry Thaw insane and putting him in Mattawan for keeps.

Another grave question the country will have to face in March next will be what to do with two living ex-presidents.

There is one platitude the Colonel refuses to employ. It is that with regard to third cups of coffee there is many a slip between the empty dinner pail and a justly celebrated set of teeth.

Armageddon is a nice place to talk about, but it must be an awful place to be at.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Caught on the Fly.
An European physician who claims that he can make hair grow on bald heads is hailed as a genius, but he isn't a genius. He is a short and ugly.

Women are now wearing hats without trimming. If they keep on doing sensible things there will soon be no question as to their right to the ballot.

A New Jersey man says he hasn't been able to sleep in thirty years. Why doesn't he buy some mesquite netting?

Mr. Carnegie advises all men to live within their incomes. Personally Mr. Carnegie has no difficulty in doing this.

Judging by the number of candidates who expect to sweep the country, it ought to be pretty clean by next fall.

Scientists say card playing stupefies the mind. Evidently he never had better than a pair of deuces.

The rubber trust has declared a dividend of 100 per cent, which shows, for one thing, that the sale of hot water bottles and rubber collars is going bravely on.

A Chicago man wants a divorce because his wife is too fond of morning picture shows. But how much worse it would be if she had a taste for grand opera.

Stripes have been abolished in the California penitentiaries. Now that it is a suffragette State, there may be frequent changes in styles there.

Madero says he will and the present revolution in Mexico in two months. Perhaps, but there will be several more going on by that time.

There is some talk of a compromise candidate. But it looks as though they may be all compromised before they get through.

Having nothing else to do now, those intrepid polar explorers might set out and try to find ex-Vice-President Fairbanks in styles there.

A Chicago woman is suing a beauty doctor for \$50,000. Not many would have the face to do that.

Her Smile.
Whenever she smiled long years ago, Young Cupid drew his faithful bow And sent his shaft.

Right to my heart.
The roosts of doubt did melt away, And confidence supreme held sway; No sort of fear Did linger near.

Pha-ut-er turned from dark to bright, Illuminated by the sparkling light Of her fond smile.
David of Goliath.

When she so softly murmured "Yes," I was enraptured, I confess, That was, you know, Some years ago.

Whenever she smiles upon me now, I can't explain why, but I vow It doesn't seem The old-time beam.

It seems to start a sort of fear Of some disaster lurking near. It looks like the while So free from guile.

So frank and plainly innocent, It will conceal its deep intent. But not from me. Because, you see, In passing years I have grown wise.

Whenever she smiles with dancing eyes, I know this much, It means a "touch."

VIRGINIA WILL "GO FORWARD."

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—Sir,—I want to express to you my appreciation of your editorial entitled "Trying to Split Party" in this morning's paper. It voices my sentiment with more force than I could possibly give to them myself, and leaves me but one regret. That is, that you did not give the people of Virginia a few like this three months ago.

I have not always been an admirer of your attitude toward public questions and public men, but I know, of course, that your paper does wield a considerable influence, and believe that if it had been exerted in editorials as vigorous as this some time ago that Virginia's voice would not have been allied in the national convention. One thing is certain, that from this time on the situation is going to clarify, and men like Roosevelt in the Republican party, and Bryan, of the Democratic party, are going to act as precipitants, sending to the bottom men like Ryan, who have so long exerted a powerful and pernicious influence upon public policies and public life.

A few more manifestations of this kind on your part will cause me to reform the view I have had of your paper, and make me as warm in advocate of it in the future, as at times I have been antagonistic in the past. June 25, 1912.

Yours very truly,
W. M. JUSTIS, JR.

Improve Bridge Approach.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—Sir,—I see by your paper that they are now going to build the new Ninth Street Bridge. I read some months ago that they were going to make the roadway higher. I have taken the liberty of making the following suggestions: All large cities and railroads running into them are doing all that they can to do away with these grade crossings. Why not tunnel Ninth Street under the railroad tracks.

Abe Martin



FAVORITE LEGAL TACTICS OF CRAFTY COUNSEL.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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QUERIES & ANSWERS.

Settling Estate.
A father real estate to B in trust for C and her heirs. May B or his heirs take this estate by reason of claims which B has against C? J. P. F.
Not except by the decree of a court. The suit would, of course, give all parties a chance to be heard.

Marshall Street Cars.
If there used to be a car line on Marshall Street, please give route.
E. J. B.
Down Marshall from Seventh to College; thence along College and Fourteenth to Main.

White Sulphur Springs.
Can you inform me when the Green-bird White Sulphur Springs was first opened?
M. F.
No one can say what the "opening" was. For years during Mr. Caldwell's life there were rough "cottages" owned by Caldwell and occupied at such times as they chose by the persons who had paid the \$200. For a long while the tenants of these shanties boarded at Caldwell's home after a while some of them brought cooks, etc., and lived in more comfort, and the Springs gradually grew in popularity. As they increased in popularity, the transient crowd was provided for by a clause in the understanding with permanent tenants of "cottages" that keys were to be left with Caldwell, who was to have the right to rent the cottages in the intervals of occupancy by the "owners."

A Problem.
A problem in navigation, sent by N. N. H., involved several drawings which may not be here produced, and the solution will be forwarded by mail on receipt of stamped and addressed envelope.

Location of School House.
Will you let me know the law as to location of public school house within 100 yards of a dwelling or orchard?
G.

The law seems pretty clear, but the last Legislature provided a sort of appeal previously unprovided, and there is now a case under advisement by the Attorney-General, the result of which may make some difference in the matter of your interest. You might do well to state in a letter to the Attorney-General the exact facts in the case you have in mind and wait to take action till you hear from him.

Junius.
Please inform me what edition of "The Letters of Junius" to buy. I want the best.
MISS A. J.
The Woodfall edition of 1812, in three volumes.

Presbyterian Ministry.
To whom should one write to get information about preparing for the ministry in the Presbyterian Church?
M. W. WARD,
President, Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Va.

Poem Wanted.
Can you publish the poem, "Dicky Lee,"
ASHLAND.
Will some one kindly send copy?

Confederate Flag.
A valued correspondent suggests that the query from Mr. Winnemacher last week, which we were not able to understand, was intended to ask why

HELD FOR BUYING DRINK.

Pity for Thirsty Friend on Barred List Brings Trouble to Both.
Bloomington, Pa., June 26.—With the Town Council serving notices on licensees not to furnish liquors to thirteen alleged habitual drunkards, in an effort to reduce the Police Court work, and at the same time serving notice that any one purchasing drink for any of the thirteen would be arrested, a sensation was created Monday when Wilcox Cox, of Hiram, N. Y., was caught buying a drink for Hiram Neyard, one of the thirteen. Cox was committed to the lockup along with Neyard.

Killed in Louisiana.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Spencer, N. C., June 26.—Samuel M. Eubanks, a former Spencer man, and who for some years was employed on the Southern Railway, was killed in Louisiana last Saturday. Particulars of the accident are lacking, but it is learned he was working on a train and was run over in some unaccountable manner. The remains were brought to North Carolina for interment to-day, and the funeral was held in Greensboro.

Veteran Killed by Train.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Bristol, Va., June 26.—John Sullivan, sixty-eight years old, a member of the Mountain Branch Soldiers' Home, was run down and killed by a train at Johnson City to-day. He was a member of the Sixteenth Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War.

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